

# ***CHOLERA***

## **I. IDENTIFICATION**

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An acute bacterial disease of variable severity ranging from a mild diarrhea to profuse watery diarrhea, occasional vomiting, and if not treated, rapid dehydration.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Isolation of toxigenic (e.g., cholera toxin-producing) *Vibrio cholerae* serogroup O1 or O139 from stool or vomitus, **OR**
  - Serologic evidence of recent infection.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

## **II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES**

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning **1-888-973-7678 (1-888-9REPORT)**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
- Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
  - Cholera and Other *Vibrio* Illness Surveillance Report – CDC 52.79 (Rev. 11/98)
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Source investigation by LHD to include history of travel to and from endemic areas, dates, mode of transportation, and foods consumed.
  - Surveillance of contacts who shared food and drink for at least five days after exposure.
  - Educate public about proper hand washing after toileting or handling contaminated clothing or linens, before cooking, or associating with high-risk individuals.
  - Assess patient's activities for high-risk settings.
  - Educate and advise high-risk patients and food handlers on enteric precautions.
  - Determine if case is outbreak-related and notify Communicable Disease Branch

502-564-3261, Surveillance and Health Data Branch, 502-564-3418, or Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning, 502-564-7243 or 1-888-973-7678.

### **III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION**

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES BRANCH: 502-564-3261.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND COSMETICS BRANCH: 502-564-7181.
- C. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

### **IV. RELATED REFERENCES**

- 1 Chin, James, ed. CHOLERA. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 100-108.
2. Pickering LK, ed. Cholera. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25<sup>th</sup> ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000: 638-640.